

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI

SUBJECT: NATO ANTI SURFACE SHIP MISSILE (ASSM)

REF: USNATO 227, DTG 101541Z JAN 77

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL
FOLLOW. THEY MAY BE USED AS NECESSARY BY THE US REP IN
NEGOTIATING ASSM MOU.

A. WE CONSIDER THE NATO OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE TO BE A
VALID DOCUMENT; HOWEVER, WE DO NOT YET HAVE AN ESTABLISHED
NATIONAL REQUIREMENT.

B. IF THE DEVELOPMENT IS SUCCESSFUL, IT COULD PROBABLY
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BE DEPLOYED ON US SHIPS IN 1990. OUR LACK OF AN
ESTABLISHED REQUIREMENT AND OUR STEP-BY-STEP ACQUISITION
PROCESS PREVENT US FROM MAKING A MORE POSITIVE STATEMENT
OF INTENT.

C. YES, AS LONG AS THE US IS A PARTICIPANT IN THE ASSM
PROGRAM, PROVIDED ALL THE PARTICIPANTS SIMILARLY AGREE TO

REFRAIN FROM COMPETITIVE EFFORTS.

D. YES, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS SHOULD NOT

NECESSARILY SET PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE COOPERATIVE
ENDEAVORS OF THIS TYPE.

E. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE OR TO
THE ADVANTAGE OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS FOR THE US TO
BE EXCLUDED. THIS WOULD DIMINISH THE PROSPECTS FOR US
ADOPTION OF THE SYSTEM AND THEREFORE REDUCE PROSPECTS
FOR STANDARDIZATION OF THIS EQUIPMENT IN NATO.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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